

TEMPE EMPTY BOWLS RAISES \$8,000 TO HELP FIGHT HUNGER



Tempe's second Empty Bowls Event was held on Saturday, February 22, 2003 at Tempe Town Lake in Tempe Beach Park. More than \$8,000 was raised from both the Saturday event and an accompanying silent auction held on Friday evening, February 21st, and continuing at the Saturday event. Proceeds from the event will benefit **United Food Bank's Kids' Café** program in Tempe (*Pictured: George Pohlman, UFB's Director, helps sell bowls during the event*). The Kids' Café program is a collaborative evening feeding program for low-income/at-risk children in which agency partners, acting as host sites, provide a free, nutritionally balanced evening meal/snack for children in their area who wish to participate. Nearly 300 Tempe children receive nightly meals/snacks at four Kid's Café host sites in Tempe.

Empty Bowls is a unique event that brings together all facets of the community to raise money for and awareness of hunger issues. Throughout the year, hand-crafted bowls are made by local artists, ASU students, and by Tempe area high school and middle school students. Then, at the event itself, these hand-crafted bowls are offered for a \$10 donation. A simple meal of soup, bread and water (representing the calorie amount that must sustain many in the world for an entire day) is provided

free with the purchase of a bowl. The event also included musical entertainment, featuring the Beatles cover band "Drive."

This event was truly a community-based effort, initiated and coordinated by an inter-faith volunteer group that put in many hours of planning and hard work. This group partnered with **Tempe Community Council** and the **City of Tempe** to provide staff and organizational support, and received generous donations from **Whole Foods Market** and **SRP**.

Next year, the event will be held on **February 28, 2004** at Tempe Town Lake. For more information about Empty Bowls, contact Martha Cronin at 480-858-2301.

The volunteer coordinating committee enlisted the talents of several local potters and relied significantly on Tempe schools to make ceramic soup bowls for the event. Contributing schools included Corona del Sol, Desert Vista, Marcos De Niza, Mountain Pointe and McClintock High Schools, as well as McKemy, Gililand, Fees and Akimel A-al Middle Schools. ASU students and various church youth groups also made bowls for the event. In all, 2,000 hand-made bowls were donated and nearly 75 enthusiastic volunteers worked at the event, doing everything from replenishing the bowl-display table to handing out



bottles of water. The Empty Bowls Volunteer Committee members represent several different faith organizations, including Desert Palm United Church of Christ, the LDS Tempe Stake Centers, Tempe Religious Society of Friends (Quaker), Temple Emanuel, University Lutheran Church and University Presbyterian Church.

Pictured: The Empty Bowls Silent Auction was held at the Hayden Ferry Lakeside building on a vacant floor the night before the event – all of the art up for auction was donated by the artists.

